

## Message Text

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15

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 NIC-01 SAJ-01 SWF-02 AGR-20 CIAE-00

DODE-00 INR-11 NSAE-00 PA-04 RSC-01 USIA-15 PRS-01

SP-03 COME-00 EB-11 LAB-06 SIL-01 STR-08 OMB-01

TRSE-00 SS-20 NSC-07 DRC-01 CIEP-03 CEA-02 /145 W

----- 004081

R 210631Z AUG 74

FM AMEMBASSY WARSAW

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0670

INFO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PRAGUE

AMEMBASSY SOFIA

AMEMBASSY VIENNA

USMISSION BERLING

UNCLAS WARSAW 4907

EO 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAGR, PL

SUBJECT: POLISH HARVEST

REF: WARSAW 4705 (NOTAL)

1. AS OF AUG 19, 70 PERCENT OF GRAIN HAS BEEN MOWED IN POLAND, WITH HARVEST NEARLY COMPLETE IN CENTRAL POLAND BUT LAGGING IN NORTH AND WEST DUE TO CONTINUED RAINS. POLISH PRESS STATES GRAIN QUALITY IS GOOD, MUCH BETTER THAN EXPECTED. PROBLEMS REMAIN IN CONNECTION WITH DRYING OF GRAIN TO OBTAIN SEED FOR NEXT SOWING. DRYING MACHINERY ACROSS THE COUNTRY IS REPORTED WORKING AROUND THE CLOCK, WITH ADMINISTRATIVE AND TECHNICAL PERSONNEL DOING OVERTIME AT THE SHOVELS.

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2. PRESS REPORT INDICATE SOME DISSATISFACTION WITH

VOLUNTEER LABOR ENCOURAGED BY PREMIER'S DIRECTIVE OF AUG 6 (REPORTED REFTEL). WHILE CONGRATULATING INDUSTRIAL WORKERS AND OTHERS ON THEIR HEALTHY PUBLIC-MINDEDNESS, THE PRESS ALSO POINTED OUT THAT VOLUNTEERS MUST HAVE MOWING, DRYING, OR TRANSPORT WORK GUARANTEED BY PROVINCIAL AUTHORITIES BEFORE LEAVING REGULAR JOBS FOR THE FARMS. MOWING, IT WAS NOTED, REQUIRES SKILL, AND NO ADDITIONAL MECHANICS ARE NEEDED TO REPAIR MACHINERY, WHICH HAS BEEN WORKING WELL. THESE CAUTIONS ARE EVIDENCE THAT THE THE EXPENSIVE VOLUNTEER PROGRAM, WHICH PAID VOLUNTEERS BOTH FOR REGULAR JOBS AND FOR WORK IN THE THE HARVEST, MAY HAVE BEEN USED AS A BOON-DOGGLE BY MANY WORKERS. MAJOR NEED IS TRANSPORTATION RATHER THAN LABOR, AND INDUSTRIAL ESTABLISHMENTS HAVE BEEN ASKED TO LOAN TRUCKS TO PROVINCIAL AUTHROTIES FOR USE IN THE HARVEST.

3. RAPE HARVEST LESS ADVANCED THAN GRAIN, ALTHOUGH PRESS REPORTS STEADY PROGRESS, ESPECIALLY IN NORTH AND ON STATE FARMS. PRESS HAS ALSO CALLED ON AGRICULTURAL AUTHORITIES TP EXPLAIN ADVANTAGES OF PLANTING RAPE TO PRIVATE FARMERS, WHO, WE HAVE HEARD, HAVE BEEN GENERALLY RELUCTANT TO UNDERTAKE CULTIVATION OF SO RISKY A CROP.

4. PRESS ANNOUNCED PLANS TO INCREASE SOWING OF WINTER BARLEY FROM 30,000 TO 70-80,000 HECTARES. MOST OF THE INCREASE WILL BE IN WESTERN PROVINCES, WHERE YIELDS ARE GREATEST.

5. CROP ESTIMATES HAVE STILL NOT BEEN PUBLISHED.  
DAVIS

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## Message Attributes

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